

Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

MEMO

To: The UVM Faculty Senate

From: Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Colby Kervick, Co-Chair

Date: December 2, 2021

Re: Approval of a proposal from the Department of Geology for a no contest deactivation of the B.S and B.A. in Geology and the minor in Geology in the College of Arts and Sciences

On December 2, 2021, the Curricular Affairs Committee approved the actions recommended in the following memo.

The Curricular Affairs Committee approved a proposal from the Department Geology for a no contest deactivation of the geology B.S. and B.A and the geology minor due to poor demand for these programs at the present time. The faculty in Geology and the faculty in Geography have agreed to combine their faculty into a renamed Geography department with the intention of creating a broader Earth Sciences (BS) major to include both geology and physical geography content. A name change was approved by the Faculty Senate on November 15, 2021 for the Department of Geography to become the Department of Geography and Geosciences reflecting this new collaboration. The deactivation of the Geology majors and minor will not affect the Geology master's program.

The program faculty voted in favor of deactivating the majors and minor with 5 voting in favor and 1 abstaining. On September 1, 2021, the CAS Curriculum Committee voted unanimously to approve no-contest deactivations of the B.A. major in Geology, the B.S. major in Geology, and the minor in Geology. On September 14, 2021, the CAS faculty voted to approve the proposal. 1 public comment was received during the 30 day circulation noting that the geology courses have had high enrollment even if demand for the major and minor was decreasing. The CAC vote was 15 approve, 4 oppose and 0 abstain.

Rationale for Deactivation: Since AY 2018 an average of 8 students were enrolled in the Geology BA and 16 students enrolled in the Geology BS each year. Over this time, an average of 1 BA student graduated each year with a Geology major and 5 students graduated each year in the BS. Since AY 2018, an average of 11 students per year were enrolled in the Geology minor and an average of 5 students graduated with the minor each year.

The decision to deactivate the Geology majors and minor at this time will prevent students from declaring the major/minor as of Fall 2022 and allow for the orderly teach out of students while also leaving open the possibility that the newly combined department might instead opt to reactivate and revise the Geology major rather than create a new major. The deactivation of the Geology majors and minor will not affect the Geology master's program. The faculty in Geology and the Dean have agreed to continue the master's program with the goal of revising it within the next three years to be more inclusive of geography allowing all faculty in the newly combined department to participate.

The deactivation of the Geology majors and minor will not affect the courses currently offered by the faculty in Geology while the teach out is occurring. Courses in Geology through the 100-level will continue to be taught and will likely be part of the new or revised major in the newly combined department. These courses also serve the Environmental Geology concentration in the ENVS major (12 students enrolled in the concentration at present). These courses include:•GEOL 001 Earth Systems Science (4 credits)•GEOL 005 Mt -Lake:Geol Lake Chmpln Bsn (4 credits)•GEOL 055 Environmental Geology (4 credits)•GEOL 062 Earth Env & Life Through Time (4 credits)•GEOL 101 Field Geology (4 credits)•GEOL 110 SU: Earth Materials (4 credits)•GEOL 135 Environmental Geochemistry (4 credits)•GEOL 151

Geomorphology (4 credits) After the teach out, courses in Geology at the 100-and 200-level may no longer be taught. This will be dependent on the new major in Earth Science.

Deactivating the majors and minor will not affect interest in or enrollments in core 0XX courses. Moreover, it is likely that many 1XX courses will become part of the new Earth Science major. Deactivating the majors and minor will not affect staffing levels. Also as stated above, there is interest in developing a new major drawing on the expertise of the Geology and Geography faculty.